

December 20th, 2018	CHRONICLES OF THE ROTARY OF MURRAY	Issue NO. 195
Quote of the Day	<p>“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more”! Dr. Seuss</p>	
This Week	It’s time for our annual holiday musical program! Roger Reichmuth has something very special in store for us.	
Last Week	<p>We met Kyle Poat, the new Chief District Engineer, for District 1 of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. He oversees 2800 miles of highway in the twelve western counties. As Mark Welch introduced him, he reminded us of the engineering experience that Mr. Poat brings to the chief position, to which he has been recently promoted. Kyle Poat spoke to an interested congregation about all things roads. Of course, like most State agencies his department is plagued with having to do more with less. Decreasing numbers of personnel – currently there are around 260 employees – are slowing response to issues that need to be addressed. Nonetheless, some big projects with long-standing histories have seen positive developments. Highway 641 plans between Paris and Murray are proceeding and he believes we’ll see construction begin within a year, possibly from both ends. With any luck we may see the completion of a new diamond exchange at exit 4 on the interstate adjacent to the mall in Paducah. The Lake Barkley Bridge should be complete before summer and the four-lane expansion of Highway 80 to Cadiz should be complete by fall. The new six-year plan will include construction of an exchange of Highway 80 onto the Purchase Parkway southwest of Mayfield. Recently appropriated Federal dollars should further a number of rural bridge improvement projects in western Kentucky, including at least one in Calloway County.</p>	
Next Week	We will not meet next Thursday, December 27 th .	
Our Guests Last Week	Laura Crouse, Joza Mikulcik, Stacey Mikulcik, & Kyle Poat.	
Club Member Birthdays This Week & Next: Bobby Workman, Scott Seiber, Wendy Swalls, Pete Lancaster, & Parks Pennington		
Club member anniversaries this month: Hamp Erwin (‘69), Charles Tucker (‘87), Sal Matarazzo (‘86), Loretta Jobs (‘87), Scott Seiber (‘94), Bill Davis (‘02), Katherine Fister (‘14), & Charles Taylor (‘13)		

TODAY’S AGENDA	The Four Way Test of the Things We Think, Do, and Say
<p>Songsters: Roger Reichmuth & Todd Hill Rotary Four Way Test Invocation: Keith Travis Songs: <i>Silent Night</i> & <i>We Wish You a Merry Christmas</i> Sergeant at Arms: Steven Hunter Introduction: Roger Reichmuth Speaker: Annual Holiday Musical Program</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build good will & better friendships? 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
Rotary Rumors	
<p>Roger Reichmuth encouraged our assembly to sing about snow, which we were reticent about doing lest we invoke wintery precipitation. Mignon Reed introduced Laura Crouse from Calloway County High School to bring to our attention Joza Mikulcik, this month’s Student of the Month. Unsurprisingly, her numerous achievements in the classroom, athletic competition, extracurricular activities, and in the community, have her on track to become valedictorian of her graduating class. She has already completed coursework at Murray State but reserves still her choice for university in the fall. James Gallimore successfully fulfilled the duties as Sergeant at Arms. There was a plethora of photos to choose from, not the least of which was the one taken immediately after last week’s meeting celebrating the announcement of a federal grant that will facilitate the enhancement of 641 between here and Paris. That photo proved to be a veritable mother load of dollars.</p>	
<p>Thus far over thirty Rotarians have pledged or given to the campaign to raise funds for Phase III of the Rotary Amphitheatre Project. At this point, we need \$8,600 to achieve our objective. A bit more will enable the Project Committee to purchase some additional equipment. With the matching grants in place, an investment in this close to completed endeavor will be money well spent! Please see Roger Reichmuth to learn how you can help.</p>	
<p>Might you have a suggestion for a presentation at a meeting in 2019? The Program Committee is currently working on the schedule and would welcome topic ideas. Nancy Mieure, our Past President, is the person to contact.</p>	
<p>Were you out of uniform at the last Rotary event? Do you need a tee shirt or sweatshirt or hoodie declaring your association with the best Rotary Club in the world? Keith Travis is compiling another Rotary shirt order; best to see him pretty quick to take advantage of this opportunity.</p>	
What’s Coming Up?	
<p>Now is the time to mark your 2019 planning calendar for the next <i>Bill Wells Make a Difference Day</i>, which is scheduled for Saturday morning, from 9 AM to noon, on January 12th. Thanks to The Murray Bank, it looks like we have secured the paper shredder! If you are on the committee, expect Bill Marcum to call a meeting after the Rotary program on Thursday, January 3rd & 10th.</p>	